(e) to what extent these higher targets set in 2008-09 would be achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) In the year 2007, construction was completed for 1235 km and work was awarded for upgradation of 928 km length of highways.

(b) In the year 2008-09, target for completion as per outcome budget is 3615 kms and targeted budget expenditure is Rs. 31679/- crore.

(c) The target for completion of 3615 kms length during 2008-09 is higher than the previous year's target.

(d) Yes, sir.

(e) Of the targeted 3615 kms length for completion, 1816 kms length has already been completed, and an expenditure of Rs. 14501/- crore has been incurred. It is the continued endeavour of the NHAI to ensure expeditious achievement of targets to the extent feasible.

Targets for NHAI projects

513. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) is lagging behind in reaching most of its targets;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether due to delay in completion of the projects by NHAI in time, there is steep cost escalation;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to complete the projects within time bound period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) to (b) There has been slow progress in the implementation of a few NHAI projects due to poor/non-performance by the contractors, rescinding and re-awarding to contracts of non-performing contractors, delays in land acquisition etc. The phase-wise progress and scheduled completion date for projects under National Highways Development Project is given in Statement—I (*See* below).

(c) to (d) Actual increase in cost can only be known on completion of these projects. Escalations in cost are paid as per contract according to which in case the project is delayed due

to fault on the part of the contractor, liquidated damage is imposed and no escalation is paid. Escalations are paid only in case the delay is beyond the control of the contractor.

(e) In order to expedite completion of projects, progress of works is being monitored regularly. Action is taken against poor performing contractors, and measures initiated to resolve Central-State issues like land acquisition, grant of forest clearances etc. The details are given in the Statement—II.

Statement—I

Phase-wise details of progress of NHDP

NHDP Phase	Total length (km)	Awarded length (km)	Completed 4/6 lane length (km)	Scheduled completion date	Achievement
NHDP—I	7498	7498	7178	Dec.,2004	95.73%
NHDP—II	6647	5806	2663	Dec.,2009	45.86%
NHDP—III	12109	2075	659	Dec.,2013	31.75%
NHDP—IV	To be implemented by MoSRT and H				
NHDP—V	6500	1030	77	Dec.,2012	7.47%
NHDP—VI	1000	—	—	Dec.,2015	—
NHDP—VII	700	—	—	Dec.,2014	—

Statement—II

Steps taken for early completion of the projects

a. The Contracts are regularly monitored at various levels such as be Supervision Consultant, Project Directors, Senior officers of NHAI. Progress reviews are also held at the level of Chairman, NHAI, Secretary, Department of Road Transport and Highways.

b. State Governments have appointed Senior officers as nodal officers for resolving problems associated with implementation of the NHDP such as land acquisition, removal of utilities, forest/pollution/environment clearances etc. These nodal officers hold periodic meetings to review the projects and take action to resolve the problems.

c. A Committee of Secretaries has been constituted under Cabinet Secretary to address inter-ministerial and Centre-State issues such as land acquisition, utility shifting, environment approvals, clearance of ROBs.

d. The procedure of issue of Land Acquisition notifications has been simplified. Earlier all the notification under NH Act were vetted by the Ministry of Law. Recently, an

amendment has been made in the Allocation of Business Rules by which these notifications are not required to be sent to the Ministry of Law. The Ministry of Law has approved the standard formats of various notifications keeping in view the similar nature of the notifications of Land Acquisition.

e. To expedite the construction of ROBs an officer of the Railways has been posted to NHAI to coordinate with Ministry of Railways. MOU has also been signed with M/s. IRCON for construction of some of the ROBs.

f. Action has been taken against non performing contractors and they are not allowed to bid for future projects unless they improve the performance in existing contracts.

g. Steps have been taken to improve cash flow problems of contractors by granting interest bearing discretionary advance at the request of contractor, release of retention money against bank guarantee of equal amount, deferment of recovery of advances (on interest basis) and relaxation in minimum IPC amount.

National Transport Permits

†514. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Rajasthan has requested Central Government to formulate a draft plan regarding 'National Transport Permits';

(b) if so, whether request regarding inclusion of certain issues in the proposed draft has also been made;

(c) if so, the issues involved and whether Government has taken any steps to formulate the draft; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) The State Governments, in January, 2009, were requested to provide detailed information relating to National Permit and also submit their views for rationalization of motor vehicle taxes including the composite fee on national permit vehicles with a view to streamline the National Permit system across the country. In response thereto Government of Rajasthan has submitted their views regarding uniform tax structure on motor vehicles.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.